

SN 10/084,240
Page 2

Claim Amendments

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for treating sphincter deficiencies for injecting a bulking agent into a tissue plane between an esophagus, rectum, or urethra and surrounding sphincter muscle comprising
a syringe containing a bulking agent; and
a hypodermic needle having, ~~wherein said hypodermic needle is comprised of~~ a linear segment extending from a hub of the syringe and an arcuate segment formed by ~~about a 5-45~~ degree bend located within a position of the needle closest to a needle tip, the needle being configured to deliver bulking agent into a tissue plane between an esophagus, rectum or urethra, and a surrounding sphincter muscle.
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein ~~said hypodermic needle has an~~ the arcuate segment is formed by about a 15 degree bend.
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said hypodermic needle has a length of about 1.5 to 60 inches.
4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said hypodermic needle has a length of about 1.5 to 5 inches.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said hypodermic needle is sufficiently rigid so as to maintain the arcuate segment while retaining a minimal amount of flexure to allow proper insertion of the needle into tissue.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein a penetration depth shield is located on the linear segment of the hypodermic needle and limits tissue penetration of the needle.
- 7-11 (Cancelled).
12. (Currently Amended) A needle kit for treating stress urinary incontinence, comprising:
a syringe adapted to contain a bulking agent;

SN 10/084,240

Page 3

a hypodermic needle, ~~wherein said hypodermic needle is comprised of~~ comprising a linear segment adapted to extending from a hub of the syringe and an arcuate segment formed by about a 15 degree bend located within a portion of the needle closest to a tip of the needle; ~~a penetration depth shield;~~ and an injectable bulking agent.

13. (Original) The kit of claim 12, wherein said bulking agent is comprised of a plurality of discrete carbon coated particles in a carrier.

14. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim ~~12~~ 13, wherein said carbon coated particles ~~are of rounded shape and~~ have an average transverse cross-sectional dimension of between ~~200 and 500~~ 100 and 1000 microns.

15. (New) The kit of claim 12 wherein the needle has a length of about 1.5 to about 5 inches.

16. (New) The kit of claim 12 further comprising a penetration depth shield.

17. (New) An apparatus for delivering a bulking agent from a syringe to a tissue plane between an esophagus, rectum or urethra, and a surrounding sphincter muscle, the instrument comprising:

a syringe adapted to house a bulking agent; and

a needle connected to and extending between about 1.5 and about 5 inches from the syringe, the needle including a linear segment and an arcuate segment located adjacent to the linear segment closest to a tip of the needle, the arcuate segment including about a 15 degree bend.

**This Page is Inserted by IFW Indexing and Scanning
Operations and is not part of the Official Record**

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images include but are not limited to the items checked:

- ☐ BLACK BORDERS
- ☐ IMAGE CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- ☐ FADED TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☒ BLURRED OR ILLEGIBLE TEXT OR DRAWING
- ☐ SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- ☐ COLOR OR BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHS
- ☐ GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS
- ☐ LINES OR MARKS ON ORIGINAL DOCUMENT
- ☐ REFERENCE(S) OR EXHIBIT(S) SUBMITTED ARE POOR QUALITY
- ☐ OTHER: _____

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

As rescanning these documents will not correct the image problems checked, please do not report these problems to the IFW Image Problem Mailbox.